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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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SOURCE

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT 2001

- On October 1948 a contingent of 621 foreign refugees coming from IRO camps in Greece, via Bari, arrived at the Refugee Camp at Bagnoli, in the vicinity of Naples. It is reported that among them are Communist elements expressly sent to Italy by their Governments under cover of political refugees, to carry out propaganda and intelligence activity. An allegedly reliable informer, who lives in the refugee circle and who was previously in the IRO camps at Athens, furnished the data on the following Bulgarian citizens, all presently living in the Bagnoli Camp:

- Gospodin GOSPOLIMOV, born 13 May 1925. During the German occupation of Bulgaria he belonged to the Bulgarian Nationalist Legion. When the Communists came to power in September 1944, he was named head of the requisition commission, later, as leader of a Communist Labor Brigade, a position entrusted exclusively to elements of pure Marxist belief. It is deduced from this that at the time he was in the Bulgarian Nationalist Legion he must have already been a member of the clandestine Communist organization in Bulgaria. He emigrated to Greece at an unknown date and was placed in the IRO camp at Athens (June 1948) where he was accepted as a refugee, stating that he was persecuted by the Communists. In the Bagnoli Camp as in the Athens camp, he has sought to cause unrest among the refugees. It is believed that one of the tasks assigned to him by the Bulgarian Communists is to learn of the transfer and emigration situation of Bulgarian refugees. In view of his political precedents, also known to several other refugees, it is believed that he was sent to Greece by the Bulgarian service, thence to Italy to carry out a mission with regard to the IRO organization;

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EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)
(2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

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- b. Bojan BANDJAKOV (or Boyan BANJAKOV), born in 1924. He was a former member of the Bulgarian Communist Youth. He was a driver and a trusted person of the head of the Bulgarian Military Intelligence Service. At an unknown date he emigrated to Greece. The fact that he was accepted by the IRO camp at Athens as a refugee caused much concern among the Bulgarian refugees who already knew of his past activity. In Bagnoli he has attempted to create disorders in the Bulgarian circle for political motives, by attempting to provoke expulsions from the camp. He carries out cautious Communist propaganda;
- c. Kiriu SHUSKOV, born 2 October 1906. He claims to be a Rumanian. During the occupation of Bulgaria he collaborated with the Germans as a secret agent of the Bulgarian police. When the Communists came to power he was tried as a war criminal, but was some time later liberated after accepting the Communist ideology, and was designated to the military espionage service. In 1947, for unknown reasons, he was arrested and sent to a concentration camp for forced labor. He escaped and fled to Greece stating that he was an anti-Communist. He was accepted as a refugee in the summer of 1948 by the IRO camp at Athens. Many Bulgarian refugees are convinced that the arrest and escape of SHUSKOV was staged in order to provide a basis for his activity abroad. At times he does not attempt to hide his Communist sentiments;
- d. Ivan Stefanoff IVANOV, about 40 years old. At present he is using the name of John IOANDIS. During the occupation of Bulgaria he collaborated with the Germans as an agent of the Bulgarian secret police. When the Communists came to power he fled to Yugoslavia, where under another name he participated in the partisan war as a volunteer in the Macedonian Communist Army. He emigrated to Greece at an unknown date and was placed in the IRO camp at Athens (June 1948) where he was accepted as a refugee on his statement that he had been persecuted in Bulgaria because he was an anti-Communist. However, he continued his contacts with Communist exponents in Greece. It is reported that he has the intention of going to Rome to make contact with the Bulgarian Legation;
- e. Yanko VELISAROV, born 2 September 1924. At present he is using the name of Jani VELIZAROV. In Bulgaria, after September 1944, he was called to active military service as a non-commissioned officer in the Red Army. He emigrated to Greece at an unknown date, declaring himself to be a Fascist and, therefore, persecuted by the Bulgarian Government. He is a criminal and capable of any action for money;
- f. Radko STANKOV, born in 1920. He is at present using the name of Rajo STANKOV. He was a member of the Bulgarian Communist partisan formations. After September 1944 he collaborated with the Bulgarian Military police as an informer. He emigrated to Greece at an unknown date and in June 1948 was accepted by the IRO camp at Athens. In the Bagnoli camp he was very reserved, but always seeks to obtain information of a political nature on the Bulgarian and Greek refugees.

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- g. Assen NEDELCHIEF, born in 1927 (appears to be much older). He is presently using the name of Assen NEDITSCHIEF. He was on active service as 2nd Lieutenant in the Bulgarian Red Guard and was later demoted to NCO for unknown reasons, and designated to a Frontier Guard Unit. He emigrated to Greece at an unknown date stating that he was a Fascist and was persecuted by the Bulgarian Government, but his activity was always of the opposite tendency, even in the Athens camp. He is considered a very dangerous element capable of any action for money. In the Bagnoli camp he is very reserved, but at times he does not attempt to hide his communist sentiments. In Greece he was under surveillance as an agent of the Bulgarian Intelligence Service;
- h. Dimitar PETROV, born 29 January 1922. He fought in Yugoslavia in the Tito Partisan ranks. He returned to Bulgaria after September 1944 and carried out activity for the Bulgarian Communist Party. He emigrated to Greece, allegedly for family reasons. In the Bagnoli camp he is in close contact with VELISAROFF and NEDELCHIEF. Together they caused political dissension among the refugees to discover their political tendencies. He does not hide his Communist sentiments;
- i. Kresto ZAHARIEV, born in 1927 (appears to be much older). During the German occupation of Bulgaria he belonged to the Bulgarian Fascist organization "Branik". After September 1944 he was a member of the Bulgarian Communist Youth and a member of the Communist secret militia. He is very intelligent, and in the Bagnoli camp, he outwardly does not indicate any political interest;
- j. Nikola TAHOV, born 15 February 1900, presently using the name of Nikola TAHOS. He is registered in the camp as a Greek, but is a Bulgarian-Rumanian from Macedonia. In Bulgaria and in Greece he was known for his Communist activity. In Athens he was often seen in the company of Greek colonel suspected of leftist tendencies. In Bagnoli as well as in Athens, he maintained contacts with elements of various political groups for the purpose of obtaining information. Among the Bulgarians he is believed to be an agent of the Bulgarian information service.
- k. Dimitar MITREV, born 15 December 1924. In Bulgaria he was on duty with a special Red Guard Army. He fled to Greece because he was responsible for killing a person in Bulgaria. In Athens he was well known for his Communist activity. In Bagnoli he outwardly appears to be disinterested in politics;

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1. Teodor BOSKOV, born 29 August 1924. He was a former member of the Bulgarian Communist Youth organization. He emigrated to Greece at an unknown date, declaring himself a Fascist and that he was persecuted by the Bulgarian Government. In the Athens camp he carried out intensive Communist Propaganda. In Bagnoli he maintains himself very reservedly.
2. It is also reported that the Russians, in 1946 and 1947, allegedly instructed many Bulgarian youths of secure Communist faith in intelligence activity for the purpose of sending them to Greece under cover of political refugees.